

April 6, 2010

GENEVA, NY - Today, U.S. Rep. Michael Arcuri highlighted the positive impact of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Bill) at Geneva High School. The Geneva School District has received \$841,667 in increased Title 1 and IDEA funding in addition to the more than \$1.4 million in additional funding through the New York State Fiscal Stabilization Fund.

"With most local and state governments still facing serious budget challenges, these federal resources could not have come at a more critical time for Upstate New York's schools," **said Arcuri.**

"In addition to preventing teacher layoffs, the Recovery Act is increasing aid for disadvantaged children, modernizing classrooms and increasing Individuals with Disabilities Education Act funds. If we are going to succeed in getting our economy back on track, we have to make sure that schools in Geneva and all across Upstate New York have the resources they need to help every student reach their full potential."

The Geneva School District was able to retain 31 teaching positions as a result of this Recovery Bill funding. Additionally, funding will be used to pay for summer school operations at Geneva Elementary school, fund contractual and professional development, and purchase equipment throughout the district.

Additionally, Arcuri took this opportunity to field questions from students and faculty on a wide range of issues ranging from the U.S. Census to the benefits of high-speed rail for Upstate New York.

"Every time I visit a school, I am more and more impressed with how engaged the students are in a whole host of national and local issues," said Arcuri. "When I discuss the potential impact of high-speed rail on jobs and economic activity in the region; they get it, because they just learned about how transformative the Erie Canal was to Upstate New York 150 years ago."

Arcuri recently met with U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood to advocate for additional funding for high speed rail projects in Central New York and the Mohawk Valley as

part of an additional \$2.5 billion included for high speed rail development nationwide through the Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 Consolidated Appropriations act signed into law last December. This would be in addition to the \$151 million dollars in Recovery funding received for improvements to New York's Empire Corridor, which stretches from Niagara Falls to Albany.

###